

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., today was named to the influential Health Subcommittee of Ways and Means, giving him a key role in shaping the future of the nation's health care system. Buchanan also serves on the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, a panel critical in the development of international trade and job-creation policies.

"I am honored to be named to such an important subcommittee," Buchanan said after Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp announced his selection to the Health Subcommittee. Buchanan is Florida's only member of the powerful House Ways & Means Committee, and now serves on its two most important subcommittees.

"We need pro-growth policies that focus on private-sector solutions to reforming health care, creating jobs and revitalizing the economy," Buchanan said, adding he will work to "help small businesses grow and provide health care at affordable costs. I look forward to taking an active role in these important debates."

The Ways and Means Committee is the chief tax-writing body in the House of Representatives. The U.S. Constitution gives it sole power in Congress to initiate tax bills, making it even more powerful than its counterpart in the Senate, the Finance Committee.